भी पब्लिक सैक्टर में और प्राइवेट सैक्टर में काम पाने का ज्यादा मौका है। हम अपने कोर्सेज इस तरह से डिज़ाइन कर रहे हैं ताकि इंडस्ट्री डॉयरेक्टली उनसे फायदा ले और इंडस्ट्री को भी हम अपने मैनेजमेंट में शामिल कर रहे हैं।

Arjun Tank Project

*62. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: ††
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of 36 years spent in Arjun Tank's design and development, in December, 2007 it failed the winter trials;

(b) if so, whether the mandatory procedure of comparative trials with Russian tanks has been done, which is very crucial before the induction of Arjun Tank into Army;

(c) the perception of defence experts, who normally look ahead for 20 years while inducting Main Battle Tanks, about Arjun Tank which failed the winter trials; and

(d) the fate of Arjun Tank Project of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The winter trials of Main Battle Tank (MBT) were not a failure. The project for development of MBT was taken up in August 1972 as part of GSQR 326. The project was approved by CCPA in its meeting help on 26 March 1974. The Qualitative Requirement (QR) was revised as 431 in Oct 1980 and final GSQR No. 467 was issued in Nov 1985 with incorporation of number of technological and operational changes. The project was successfully completed as MBT Arjun and closed in March 1995 at the end of 10 years with delivery of 12 prototypes and 15 pre-production series tanks. The pre-production tanks have undergone extensive user evaluation between 1993 and 1998. These tanks have covered 70,000 Km of automotive trials and fired 7000 rounds of ammunitions cumulatively with an average of 4600 Km and 460 rounds per tank. Only after successful trials, army placed an indent for 124 number of MBT, Arjun to Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in March 2000. Fourteen tanks have been handed over to Army, and 85 tanks are under various stages of production. Out of 14 tanks delivered to Army, 2 tanks have undergone Accelerated User Cum Reliability Trials (AUCRT) in five phases during Dec 2007 onwards. Certain defects were observed in the engine, automotive system and gun barrel, which have been analysed and rectified. The tanks have been subjected to trials covering 8000 Km and firing 830 rounds. Firing accuracies have also been demonstrated.

It is not a mandatory procedure to do comparative trials with Russian tanks before the MBT, Arjun is inducted into Army. However, it will be a planned activity after the army is equipped with one squadron of MBT Arjun.

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††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimur

The performance of MBT, Arjun has been established during AUCRT/extended AUCRT beyond doubt, despite the initial production/quality related problems. Efforts are afoot to constantly improve the design to meet the requirements of the Army.

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Sir, the Minister has said in his reply that the winter trials of Main Battle Tank were not a failure. But, I would like to know whether the Tank has been consistently suffering transmission problems and trouble in its suspension unit and the latest round of user trials that were conducted in March brought out major problems with the German engines fitted on the indigenous tank.

SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, the tank is being developed over a number of years. Whatever defects have been found in either the user trials or the accelerated user-cum-reliability trials that were held from December 2007 till the summer of this year have been rectified periodically, and today the Army has said categorically that the user trials were satisfactory and they are willing to induct this tank within the Army and 124 tanks are scheduled to be inducted into the Army – one regiment by the end of this year and the next regiment by the summer of next year.

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Sir, it is reported that the disappointed Army Chief has written to the Defence Minister that a lot of improvements are needed before the tank can be cleared for bulk induction into our Army. Is it a fact?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Sir, the Army Chief has written this month itself. Before that, there were some doubts. But now, as per the latest letter by the Army Chief, the Army is now more or less satisfied with the performance of the Arjun Tank. They are now willing to induct, as my colleague just now pointed out. One regiment will be inducted very soon and gradually we will induct more. So, doubts are now almost over. I can assure the House that after 36 years, Arjun Tank is going to be a reality.

श्री विजय जे. दर्डा: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि यह टैंक 70 हजार किलोमीटर तक trial कर चुका है और सात हजार राउण्ड पार कर चुका है। आपने यह भी जानकारी दी है कि हाल ही में आर्मी चीफ साहब को यह पत्र मिला है कि अर्जुन टैंक को उनके बेड़े में सम्मिलित कर लिया जाएगा, किन्तु मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि DRDO द्वारा 34 वर्षों तक इस पर रिसर्च किए गए तथा समय-समय पर जो trial हुए हैं, उस trial में पहले गीयर में करीब एक हजार किलोमीटर से अधिक उसको चलाया गया, क्या यह सत्य है या इसको जान-बूझकर sabotage करने का प्रयास किया गया, जिसके कारण इसको लाने में इतने वर्षों की देरी हुई है, अगर नहीं तो इसका क्या कारण था? मेरे प्रश्न का "बी" भाग यह है कि क्या अर्जुन टैंक के जो specifications हैं, वे दूसरे विश्व स्तरीय टैंक जैसे जर्मन का Leo ford-II है, एम आई-II है या यूएसए का अब्राह्मस है या फ्रेंच टैंक लेसर्स के मुकाबले किस स्तर का है?

श्री राव इन्द्रजीत सिंह: सर, मैं सबसे पहले यह स्पष्ट करना चाहूंगा कि जो हम कहते हैं कि अर्जुन टैंक को बनने में 35 साल लगे हैं, वास्तव में स्थिति यह है कि सन् 1972 में CCPA के मार्फत पहली GSQR के मुताबिक DRDO को एक नया टैंक बनाने की अनुमति दी गई। GSQR 326 सन् 1972 में दिया गया। उसके पश्चात् 1983 में पहला प्रोटो टाइप टैंक बन कर तैयार हो गया था, लेकिन सन् 1982 में दूसरा GSQR दिया गया, जिसके तहत इसे बेहतर किस्म का बनाने हेतु इसमें कुछ बदलाव किए गए, जो अगस्त, 1982 में किए गए, इसके मुताबिक टैंक को दोबारा से बनाने की शुरूआत की गई।

तीसरा GSQR, जिसके तहत आज का यह टैंक बनने जा रहा है, उसका नंबर है 667, नवंबर, 1985 में दिया गया और इसको दिए हुए अब कुल मिलाकर 28 साल हुए हैं। 1985 के GSQR के मुताबिक हमारा पहला टैंक 1995

में बन कर तैयार हो गया था, उसके पश्चात् जो प्री-प्रोडक्शन सीरीज के टैंक उपलब्ध कराए गए, उनके अंदर जब-जब आर्मी ने प्वाइंट आउट किया कि इसके अंदर ये खामियां हैं, उनको मुकम्मिल करके समय-समय पर दोबारा trial करवाए गये और आज के दिन हम कह सकते हैं कि आर्मी को इस टैंक से satisfaction है। जो कुछ इस तरह की बातें हो रही हैं जैसे कुछ जिक्र आया कि उसमें कुछ गड़बड़ करने का प्रयत्न किया गया, हमारी तरफ से जो inquiries हुई हैं, उसके आधार पर कहा जा सकता है कि उसके अंदर कोई भी गड़बड़ी करने का प्रयत्न नहीं हुआ है। आज के दिन जो टैंक मौजूद हैं, उसके अंदर वास्तविकता से सभी खामियां दूर करके आर्मी को सौंप दी गई है। आज के दिन आर्मी के पास 14 टैंक हैं और जैसा कि मैंने कहा कि एक रेजीमेंट टैंक 2008 तक ले ली जाएगी और दूसरी अगले साल के गर्मियों तक उपलब्ध करा दी जाएगी। कुल मिलाकर दो रेजीमेंट टैंक यानी कि 124 टैंक अगले साल तक हम अपनी armed forces को दे देंगे।

श्री विजय जे. दर्डा: सभापति महोदय, मैंने जो प्रश्न पूछा था कि क्या यह हमारा टैंक विश्वस्तरीय है और हमारा यह टैंक अमेरिकन, जर्मन, रसियन टैंक के comparison में कैसा है? क्या यह सत्य है कि ...**(व्यवधान)**...।

श्री सभापति महोदय: आप जवाब सुन लीजिए।

श्री राव इन्द्रजीत सिंह: सर, हर एक टैंक की अलग-अलग उपलब्धियां होती हैं। अमेरिका को अपने यहां के terrain के मुताबिक टैंक चाहिए, यूरोप को यूरोप के terrain के मुताबिक टैंक चाहिए, रुस को अपने terrain और climate condition के मुताबिक टैंक चाहिए। जो टैंक हमने अपने देश में बनाया है, हमारी climaic condition के मुताबिक और जो GSQR आर्मी के द्वारा हमें दिया गया था, उसके मुताबिक बनाया गया है और मैं समझता हूं कि हमारी condition के अंदर हमारी टैंक और देशों के टैंकों के मुताबिक सक्षम है और शायद बेहत्तर है।

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Sir, the DRDO says that the Arjun Tank has been developed indigenously as the main battle tank for India. But if we look at it, the Engine Track Transmission, the gun barrel, etc. are all imported. Where is the indigenisation? Sixty per cent of its components are imported. In the light of this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister why the Ministry is running after the Arjun Tank, which costs about Rs. 25 crores, when T-90 Tanks are available for less than Rs. 10 crores.

SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, the T-90 Tank is a Russian Tank and we are manufacturing it as an agency for the Russian tank. The Arjun Tank is a tank developed for our conditions, which is suited to our terrain, it is a different kind of tank, as compared to the T-90 Tank. The Army requires both kinds of tanks. The T-90 Tank has a lower seluate, the Arjun Tank has a better power to weight ratio. Both kinds of tanks are being used by the Army. For the last three decades, they have used two kinds of tanks within the Army inventory. So, now, when we are upgrading, we are taking the T-90 from the Russians. But it is not enough. To supplement that, we are using our own domestic heavier, more or less, fifth grade tanks, which is not acceptable by the Army as a complementary tank. And, I think, both will compositely give the striking power required by the Army and the Nation.

SHRI PRAKASH KESHAV JAVADKAR: Sir, if we look at the whole answer in detail, it is not a very happy story. It took 35 years to develop; there are shortcomings; they are being improved upon. But the real question is about our defence research and development activity. And, there are real concerns expressed with greater details, all over, that in the DRDO the plans are delayed, whole projects are delayed, the products don't qualify the quality that we really want. So, my question is

this. What does the hon. Minister intend to do to really fulfil the target and to accomplish the real mission of the DRDO, at the earliest, by removing all the defects in the whole mechanism of the DRDO?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: I fully agree with the hon. Member that the Arjun Tank took a lot of time. It took 36 years to reach this stage. But, now, we must be happy that, at least, after 36 years India is having its own battle tank. I would like to submit one thing that a country, like, India, cannot always depend on foreign supplies. At the moment, we are importing more than 70 per cent of our equipments from other countries. So, too much dependence on other countries is not good for India, whether it is 'x' country or 'y' country. We must have, at least, seventy per cent indigenous products. We can have a maximum of 30 per cent import. That is our aim. You have asked about the defects in the Arjun Tank. The Army and the DRDO have jointly worked out a plan to rectify those defects. And, I am sure, with their joint efforts they would be able to remove those defects in the near future; and, ultimately, we would be able to induct the Arjun Tank into the Army.

SHRI PRAKASH KESHAV JAVADKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has not answered my question. I was not only on the Arjun Tank. I was pointing out about the whole of the DRDO; the shortcomings in the organization; delay in plans; cost overruns; quality that we want to have; programme of indigenous defence material availability are not according to the schedule. What is the hon. Minister going to do to rectify the situation in the DRDO?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Sir, what the hon. Member is saying is absolutely correct. There is inordinate delay in the case of certain projects, but, at the same time, there are dozens of success stones also with the DRDO. The Government is trying to encourage our scientists; and also to find a solution to the delay. The Government has appointed a Committee headed by Shri P. Rama Rao. They gave a report for the reorganisation of the DRDO, and it is in the process of implementation.

Repealing of JPM Act, 1987

*63. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:
SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: ††
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering repealing the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 in view of the fact that 21 years have passed since the enactment of JPM Act, 1987 and during this period, jute industry has grown sufficiently;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat High Court on 20 November, 2006 directed Government to publish the fresh Notification for dilution of 100 per cent jute monopoly; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government on the orders of the Gujarat High Court to repeal the JPM Act, 1987 for dilution of 100 per cent jute packing for foodgrains and sugar?

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††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House Shri Vijayk Kumar Rupani